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A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM BRADDOCK DISTRICT
SUPERVISOR JOHN C. COOK

The BRADDOCK BEACON

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FEBRUARY 19 MEETING ON PROPOSED BRADDOCK ROAD WIDENING JUST AROUND THE CORNER

Fairfax County will soon begin analysis and planning for long-standing plans to widen Braddock Road from Guinea Road to the Beltway, including HOV-Bus lanes from Burke Lake Road to the 495 Express Lanes. The plans also include a potential transit center behind the Kings Park Shopping Center. This effort is moving forward due to last year's landmark transportation funding bill.

To begin the process, Supervisor Cook will hold an informational meeting on February 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the Lake Braddock Secondary School's Lecture Hall. The meeting will allow



the County to outline the project, collect public feedback, and introduce a citizen's committee that will have a key role in planning.

The County proposal combines three projects that have been part of the Comprehensive Plan for many years. The first project would add one HOV-Bus lane in each direction from Burke Lake Road to the Beltway. A second related project to be considered during the planning effort is a transit center along Braddock Road in back of the Kings Park Shopping Center. That center could be a key location for express bus service to Tysons, using the new 495 Express Lanes. A third project could add one more lane in each direction from Guinea Road to Burke Lake Road.

There is no current design for these projects. However, implicit in the project proposals would be correction of problem intersections, such as Wakefield Chapel-Danbury-

Braddock, as well as completion and better connections in the pedestrian network along Braddock Road. A citizens committee will work with County transportation staff over the next year to draw the specifics of the projects.

Supervisor Cook has asked leaders of the civic associations of the communities along this route to name members of this committee.

The committee will be chaired by Kevin Morse, who is the Braddock District appointee to the Transportation Advisory Committee and vice-chaired by Tom Kennedy, the Braddock District appointee to the

Trails and Sidewalks Committee. There will be extensive opportunity for citizen participation in the design and consideration of these projects. These proposed projects scored high on a recent County cost-benefit analysis. This part of Braddock Road currently handles approximately 70,000 automobile trips a day, and is one of the more congested corridors in the County. Last year the County launched new bus service from the Burke Centre VRE station to Tysons with stops on Braddock Road near the Burke Lake Road intersection. The creation of HOV-Express Bus lanes is a key component to making that new bus route successful.

Supervisor Cook urges residents to attend the February 19 meeting and play an active role in moving this project forward in a way most friendly to the adjoining communities.



Supervisor John C. Cook

ATTENTION HOMEOWNER AND CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS:

Please continue to let us know about your successful Community Engagement efforts. Keep up the good work!

Please call (703) 425-9300 or email Ann Sharp at ann.sharp@fairfaxcounty.gov with your latest information.

EMAIL SUBSCRIPTION TO THE BRADDOCK BEACON

If you would like the Braddock Beacon and the Cook Advisory electronically, instead of through mail, please contact us at braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov and write "BEACON" in the subject line.

BRADDOCK DISTRICT NOW ON FACEBOOK & TWITTER

Be sure to stay up to date on the Braddock District. See: <http://www.facebook.com/supervisorcook> and on <http://www.twitter.com/braddockoffice>

BOARD PASSES HISTORIC STORMWATER MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE: BOARD INCLUDES HOMEOWNER-FRIENDLY AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY SUPERVISOR COOK

On January 28, after almost two years of Committee meetings and hearings, the Board of Supervisors adopted a sweeping series of amendments to the County's Stormwater Ordinance. The new rules will help protect stream channels and water quality by placing a cap on the amount of stormwater and pollutants, such as phosphorus and nitrogen, permitted to flow from newly-developed properties. The new Ordinance will go into effect on July 1 unless this state-mandated effective date changes, and still must be submitted to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality for final approval.

The new ordinance aims to capture and treat runoff closer to its source. The rules will result in a greater use of rain gardens, green roofs, infiltration and other low impact development techniques to deal with runoff from new development. These methods better mimic nature by slowing, reducing, and reusing stormwater runoff.

Even though Fairfax County has had stormwater rules in place since the early 1970s, the state mandated this new ordinance to ensure a consistent statewide standard for stormwater management practices. As a result, about 90 percent of the County's new ordinance consists of implementing mandatory state rules. Throughout this process I have consistently asked and been assured

that this ordinance will not directly impact most existing homeowners attempting to put an addition on their home. I am pleased to say that, on my motion, the Board adopted an amendment to this Ordinance that ensures that any homeowner project that adds less than 500 square feet of additional impervious surface to a home, will not become subject to the ordinance.

Initially, County staff proposed to adopt a standard that focused on the amount of "disturbed" land, much of which would be restored by the homeowner after a project was completed. I was concerned that properties where there was difficult access to a rear yard, the need to create a "spoils area" or account for a buffer around a project might require a homeowner to add a rain garden or an infiltration trench to their yard. I believe that my amendment, along with the staff exemption, strikes a balance between protecting the environment and allowing homeowner improvements.

To develop its new ordinance, input was sought from developers, environmentalists, civic groups, individuals and others. This collaborative process allowed the new rules to balance diverse concerns while working within the state-mandated framework.



MAKE YOUR DONATIONS TO THE SPRINGFIELD CHAMBER BOOK DRIVE

The office of Supervisor Cook is pleased to once again partner with the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce and serve as a collection spot for new and gently-used children's books. Stop by, drop off a children's book, and help us support our community.

The Chamber is hosting its annual Children's Book Drive February 10 through April 11. Along with over 20 other area businesses and organizations, we will serve as a collection point for children's books appropriate for young readers through grade six. Area residents are encouraged to participate by dropping books at our office.

This annual book drive has provided many books for children in the Fairfax County Public School system who otherwise may not have had their own to enjoy. "Reading research has proven that children who have access to books and read on a consistent basis fare better in school and are better readers overall," said Tina Simons, reading specialist at Saratoga elementary. "That's really hard to do when books are scarce."

The children's book drive continues to grow each year. In 2013 the Chamber collected over 3,100 books. This year the goal is 4,000. So help our office and the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce help children in our community.

New and gently-used children's books may be dropped off through April 11.

BRADDOCK DISTRICT COUNCIL ANNUAL INFORMATION FORUM

This year's program: Fairfax 'Neighbor Helping Neighbor' Villages: Staying Engaged in Your Community as You Age.

The goal is to inform residents how Fairfax communities assist their neighbors to live longer in their current homes. Three established and one emerging village will present different approaches with Fairfax County support.

WHEN: FEBRUARY 12TH FROM 6:30 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M.
WHERE: KINGS PARK LIBRARY MEETING ROOM

UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY FORUM

Topics on the agenda for the next University Community Forum include: updates on the Eleven Oaks property development, progress of the Campus Drive project, information about the bridge replacement on Chain Bridge Road in the city of Fairfax and George Mason University's Master Plan.

WHEN: FEBRUARY 26 AT 7:30 PM
WHERE: FAIRFAX CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
10455 ARMSTRONG STREET, FAIRFAX

SUPERVISOR COOK IN THE COMMUNITY

On January 7th, Supervisor Cook hosted a community meeting at the Government Center about the redevelopment of the Fairfax Center area of Braddock.

On January 8th, Supervisor Cook met with members of Boy Scout Troop 1131 which is sponsored by St. Stephen's United Methodist Church. One of the requirements of fulfilling their Citizenship in the Community Badge is to speak with a local elected official and Supervisor Cook was pleased to sit down and talk with them. Afterwards, he went to Oak View Elementary School for the Braddock District Council meeting.

On January 11th, Supervisor Cook attended the George Mason University basketball game at the Patriot Center. Before the game he presented a proclamation recognizing GMU's inclusion into the Atlantic 10 Conference.



On January 12th, Supervisor Cook was honored to be recognized and to speak at the Korean American Day Celebration at the NVCC Ernst Cultural Center.

On January 16th, Supervisor Cook attended one of the monthly Lunch N' Life events which are sponsored by the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke. This month the lunch was held at St. Mary's of Sorrows and featured Chairman Sharon Bulova as the guest speaker.

On January 18th, Supervisor Cook attended a Holiday Reception hosted by the Fairfax County NAACP and held at the Burke Centre Library. Later, Supervisor Cook attended and was recognized at a Special Olympics basketball game which was held at Robinson Secondary School. This is a wonderful event that draws over 1,000 attendees each year.

On January 25th, Supervisor Cook attended a Cultural Heritage event in honor of Martin Luther King which was held at the Ernst Center on the Annandale Campus of NVCC.

On January 27th, Supervisor Cook stopped by a meeting in Braddock Hall which focused on a proposed elevated footbridge at Lake Accotink which will go over the dam allowing safer crossing and a gentler slope. After that he headed down the hall to the Kings Park Library meeting room where he addressed members of the Dunleigh HOA.

During the Board of Supervisors meeting of January 28th, Supervisor Cook was very proud to present two proclamations. First, he moved recognition of Ms. Yara El Mowafy and Ms. Jordan Bivings for establishing the Student Meal Assistance Fund to provide meals for homeless students at George Mason University.



Later in the same meeting, Supervisor Cook was honored to move approval and then present the Proclamation to designate January 2014 as "Stalking Awareness Month" in Fairfax County. As the Board of Supervisor's representative to the Domestic Violence Prevention Policy Coordinating Council of Fairfax County, he is very aware of just how serious of an issue this is in our region.



On January 29th, Supervisor Cook attended the annual meeting of the Croftwood HOA which was held in Braddock Hall.

On January 30th, Supervisor Cook, in his role as Braddock District Supervisor and Vice Chair for the VRE Operations Board, went to Richmond for VRE's annual Government Day meeting.

BRADDOCK DISTRICT LAND USE UPDATES

Ox Road Estates

On January 4, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a rezoning of five acres of land for the 14 home Ox Road Estates subdivision. This approval capped a year of public meetings and hearings on this proposal. In recommending that the Board approve this application, issues of stormwater, traffic and density were closely examined. Infill development is never easy. However, Supervisor Cook ultimately was satisfied that the issues legitimately raised during the review process had been addressed by the applicant. He has placed a detailed analysis of his review of this case on the Braddock District website at the following link: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/braddock/pdfs/oxroadestates.pdf>

Twinbrook Road Rezoning (RZ 2014-BR-001)

SD Homes LLC. has submitted an application to redevelop a vacant property at 5115 Twinbrook Road for two single family homes. The site is approximately one acre currently zoned R-1, and is on the east side of Twinbrook Road, about 900 feet south of Braddock Road across from the Twinbrook Shopping Center. The applicant will present its proposal to the Braddock District Land Use and Environment Committee on February 18 at 7:30 p.m. Copies of the proposed plans are available in the Supervisor's office for review during normal business hours. The application is currently scheduled for a public hearing before the Planning Commission in July. Joe Gorney from the Department of Planning and Zoning is the staff coordinator.

Rezoning Plans Filed with Fairfax County but Not Yet Ready for Review

Supervisor Cook has been made aware that two proposals for land development have been filed with Fairfax County but not yet accepted for processing. The first is a proposal by NV Homes to redevelop a thirteen acre tract adjacent to Garden World near the intersection of Forest Hills Drive and Lee Highway for 41 single family homes. The second is a proposal to develop up to 14 single family homes near the intersection of Guinea Road and Zion Drive on a parcel known as the Young Property. Neither parcel will be ready for public hearings before July. Supervisor Cook will contact the affected communities and host an Information Meeting on both parcels in the Spring after the plans are ready for review.

CAMPUS DRIVE CONSTRUCTION UPDATE FROM GEORGE MASON

On behalf of George Mason University, the Office of Government and Community Relations would like to update you on the status of the Campus Drive (formerly known as West Campus Connector) construction and revised completion timeline.

In order to help mitigate the traffic concerns in and around George Mason University's Fairfax Campus and improve traffic flow in the region, critical funding was secured to create Campus Drive, a bypass linking the western part of Mason's campus with the eastern part, removing eastbound Braddock Road Mason traffic prior to the Route 123/Braddock Road intersection.

The Campus Drive project was expected to be completed summer 2014, however due to a delay related to the relocation of a Verizon communications duct bank contaminated with asbestos, the project overall has been delayed with an expected completion date of December 2014.

For construction News, visit <http://building.gmu.edu/> and follow @Mason-Parking on Twitter for further updates.

UNDERGROUND UTILITY WORK CONTINUES ON ROBERTS ROAD, BETWEEN BRADDOCK AND NEW GUINEA

Dominion Virginia Power is upgrading its existing facilities underneath Roberts Road and will be accessing four manhole locations between Braddock Road and New Guinea Road.

Beginning in February, there is a short stretch of street parking that will be closed due to a lane shift while we work in Roberts Road just north of New Guinea Road. These spaces will be clearly marked. This will also temporarily displace the WMATA bus stop. Patrons will be temporarily redirected one block east to the bus stop at New Guinea Road and Colony View Drive. Safe access around the work zone will be established for pedestrian traffic.

Some of the activities will require continuous operation, over 6-7 days. Lighting will likely be needed in the work areas at night but can be directed downward to minimize glare. "Whisper watt" diesel generators will be used to minimize noise pollution for neighbors during this time.

Dominion is working with Fairfax County and VDOT as we plan our work activities and schedules to minimize disruption for vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

Dominion appreciate your patience as they work on this important project for the Fairfax area. If you have any questions, please contact them at powerline@dom.com, or 1(888) 291 – 0190.



Dominion®

HUMAN SERVICES CORNER

Celebrating Black History Month

February is Black History Month and the Fairfax County Park Authority is offering a unique way for families to learn about African-American leaders who have made a difference in Fairfax County, the country, and throughout the world. "Engine #62" of the ResOURces Railroad will be at Lake Fairfax Park in Reston, Va., on Sundays February 15 and February 22, providing interpretive rides focused on legendary musician Louis Armstrong and inventor Granville T. Woods, respectively.

The interpretive train rides are part of a new program that includes indoor presentations, crafts, and a trivia game in which participants will go station to station to discover facts about historic figures. The cost is \$2 for the history program, or \$5 for the program and train ride (weather permitting).

Visitors to the park will find interpretive posters displayed in the main building with information featuring historical figures George Washington Carver, Jackie Robinson, Daniel Hale Williams (the first person to complete open-heart surgery), Harriet Tubman, Louis Armstrong, and Granville T. Woods. Laminated copies of the information will be available for visitors to take home.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors: The Village Movement!

Here in the Braddock District, many folks wish to age in their homes and live in their community longer. Aging in place can become difficult, and expensive as the need for various levels of support increases. One possible solution to consider are the various "Villages" concepts. In February, the Braddock District Council is hosting a community forum focused on Aging in Place. The forum offers an account from Fairfax County communities on how to live longer in your current homes.

Some of the communities presenting are: Reston Useful Services Exchange, McLean's A Village for All Ages, Mount Vernon at Home, and Crownleigh. Each will provide insight into what inspired them to begin, how they started and what types of activities and services they provide.

Come out and enjoy a free light dinner, a great program and the joy of meeting others who are trying to answer the same questions for themselves and their families. **See you on Wednesday, February 12, Kings Park Library Meeting Room, starting at 6:30 PM.**

Quick and Easy Tax Information

The Fairfax County Tax Administration recently posted a page with federal and state income tax forms, IRS Tax Tips, advice on choosing a tax preparer, links to free tax preparation assistance, and the county, state and federal customer service telephone numbers. For all this information, visit the County's Tax Page: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/2014/tax-resources-2014.htm>

Also, check out the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors' series on Free Tax Relief Workshops For Older Adults, People with Disabilities at various county locations this March. Tax Relief Workshops will be held in Braddock District at Kings Park Library on March 7 and March 25, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Find out if you are eligible for real estate tax relief, car tax relief or tax relief for renters. Find more information on tax relief by calling 703-222-8234, TTY 703-222-7594.

The Office for Children Can Help Families Plan for Child Care on Snow Days

Fairfax County has already experienced some snow days this winter, and it's likely that more are on the way before the season is over. When schools are closed due to inclement weather, parents may need backup care.

Parents can find child care programs near their home or workplace on the Office for Children's website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ofc. The Office for Children maintains a database of child care programs in Fairfax County and many of the county's child care businesses offer the option of occasional or back-up care. This includes hundreds of county permitted family child care providers.

To make inclement weather days easier, plan ahead and arrange for care now. You can search the list of snow day providers at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ofc/snowdaysproviders.htm. Visit a few programs ahead of time to see which child care situation will work best on snow days. Then when bad weather hits, you'll have a number of child care programs to choose from. For additional help, call the Office for Children at 703-449-8484.

Roundtable Discussion about Special Education & Your Child's Individualized Education Program (IEP)

This is your opportunity to:

- Learn: Prioritize questions surrounding your child's education and IEP and get answers
- Network: Meet others with similar issues
- Grow: Become a more powerful advocate for your child

The event is being held on Wednesday, February 12 10 until 11:30am at the Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard Street, Alexandria, and is organized by Tia Marsili, Director of Trusts at The Arc of Northern Virginia, Professional Educational Consultant and Parent of Two Children with Special Needs

These discussions have been very popular! This event is free and open to the public. RSVP to Heather Trammell at (703) 621-7129 or heathert@dsanv.org

Volunteers Needed

The Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteer advocates for residents in assisted living and nursing facilities throughout the area. Volunteers can work in facilities close to where they live. Training is provided in March 2014. Call 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov. Find more information on becoming a long-term care ombudsman volunteer at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltombudsman/vol_ombud_program.htm.

FEBRUARY ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE

Reminder: Conservation District's Annual Seedling Sale

The Conservation District is now accepting orders for its annual native tree and shrub seedling sale. This year's species were chosen to provide beauty for your yard and habitat for our native bee populations. Colony collapse disorder and habitat loss have taken their toll on bees, but native bees and other insect pollinators still contribute over \$50 billion in ecological services to the United States annually. There are two packages available: 10 bare-root shrubs and small trees for \$16.95 or bare-root larger trees for \$11.95. Order forms are available on the NVSWCD's website at: http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/seedlingsale_14.pdf

26th Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup

The Alice Ferguson Foundation's Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup is the region's largest litter cleanup event and a great way for people to get more involved in the environmental health of their community. Fairfax County typically has anywhere from 75 to 100 cleanup sites, the most in the region! Let's not rest on our laurels: cleanups will be held from March 20 to April 31st, with most occurring on the cleanup's main day of April 5, but you can register now at: <http://fergusonfoundation.org/trash-free-potomac-watershed-initiative/potomac-river-watershed-cleanup>. Sign up to volunteer at an event, or better yet, register your own cleanup and grab a few friends and neighbors to help!

Natural Resources College Scholarship for Graduating Seniors

The Educational Foundation of the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts annually offers several \$1,000 scholarships to graduating high school seniors for college study. The scholarships support studies related to natural resource conservation. The deadline to apply is March 17. Applications for students who reside in Fairfax County must be submitted to the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District, which will select one student for consideration by the state committee. The application can be found on the District's Website: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/scholarship.htm>

Apply for Summer Youth Conservation Camp at Virginia Tech

For over 35 years, the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts has sponsored a week long summer conservation camp in July for Virginia high school students on the campus of Virginia Tech. The program brings together about 70 interested students for a week of learning about Virginia's natural resources from conservation professionals and faculty from Virginia Tech. Youth Conservation Camp is a selective program and interested Fairfax County students must send their application to the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District. This year's camp will be held from July 13-19, 2014 and the application deadline is April 28. Download an application form at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/scholarship.htm> and mail it to: Youth Conservation Camp, c/o Northern VA Soil and Water Conservation District, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 905, Fairfax, Virginia 22035.

Introduction to Food Preservation

Tuesday, February 18, 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Pennino Building, Room 1032, 12011 Government Center Pkwy, Fairfax, VA 22035. Join instructors Diane Blust and Katie Strong for the ever popular Mason Sustainability Institute (MSI) workshop on the basics of food preservation. Please register at <http://msi.gmu.edu/canning.html>.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ANNOUNCED FOR FAIRFAX COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Celebrate Fairfax, Inc. (CFI), producer of the award winning Celebrate Fairfax! Festival, has recently announced that applications are now being accepted for the Celebrate Fairfax Community Spirit Scholarship Program. Ten \$1,000 college scholarships will be awarded to Fairfax County high school seniors during the 2014 Celebrate Fairfax! Festival.

Scholarship recipients will be named from each Fairfax County Supervisory District, as well as one atlarge recipient from a student living in Fairfax County or Fairfax City. Recipients will be recognized for their community involvement, academic accomplishments, extracurricular activities, and demonstrated leadership. Information regarding eligibility and criteria may be found along with the online scholarship application at www.celebratefairfax.com/scholarships. The deadline for application submission is April 1, 2014. Final selection of awardees will be made by the Celebrate Fairfax, Inc. Board of Directors.

FEBRUARY'S BRADDOCK NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS SHINES A SPOTLIGHT ON VRE

Supervisor Cook hosts a monthly television show, Braddock Neighborhood News, on Fairfax County Channel 16 which is available on most cable networks. Each month, Supervisor Cook invites topical guests on to share pertinent and informative items with the viewers.

This month's show features Doug Allen, the Chief Executive Officer for the Virginia Railway Express, known by its shorthand VRE. Supervisor Cook serves as Vice Chairman of the VRE Operations Board and therefore has the pleasure of working with Doug to provide a world-class commuter railroad for Fairfax County and all of Northern Virginia. This past January, the VRE Operations Board approved a new Systems Plan, which will govern a significant expansion of VRE over the next two decades. Tune in to hear more about this plan and other aspects of VRE.

The shows air throughout the month and can be seen Sundays at 5pm, Wednesdays at 7pm and Fridays at 5pm.